

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9025

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1402

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: DA, SGEN

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR REBILD FESTIVAL

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO READ A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE AT THE ANNUAL REBILD FESTIVAL ON JULY 4. I THINK IT PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE THAT THERE BE SUCH A MESSAGE THIS YEAR SINCE QUEEN MARGRETHE WILL BE PRESENT AND IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE FESTIVAL. I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING TEXT AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPT'S OBTAINING THE APPROPRIATE CLEARANCES AND LETTING ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DANISH-AMERICAN TIES ARE NEARLY AS OLD AS THE REPUBLIC ITSELF BECAUSE THE FIRST AMERICAN CONSUL TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN COPENHAGEN IN 1792. TODAY, DURING THE CELEBRATION OF REBILD 1974, WE STAND ONLY TWO YEARS AWAY FROM THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. IT GIVES ME SPECIAL PLEASURE, THEREFORE, TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY, ON THE 198TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE, TO EXTEND THE GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO OUR FRIENDS IN DENMARK.

I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY A FEW MONTHS AGO TO HAVE A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF DENMARK AND WE WERE BOTH GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVTS WAS EXCELLENT, AS USUAL.

THE MERE FACT THAT OUR GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS HAVE REMAINED
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CLOSE SINCE 1792 IS LESS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAN THE SOLID CONTRI-

BUTION WHICH THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS OF DANISH HERITAGE HAVE MADE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THESE MEN AND WOMEN, WHILE BECOMING OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, STILL MAINTAINED STURDY ROOTS IN DANISH SOIL. IT IS TO THEM, THEREFORE, THAT WE OWE GRATITUDE FOR KEEPING OUR MUTUAL TIES FULLY ALIVE, AND INDEED FOR THE CREATION OF REBILD ITSELF.

MY OWN VISIT TO THE REBILD FESTIVAL 12 YEARS AGO REMAINS A TREASURED PERSONAL MEMORY. I HOPE THAT THE FESTIVAL'S EMPHASIS ON OUR COMMON IDEALS WILL CONTINUE TO BEAR FRUIT, AND THUS CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO MAKING POSSIBLE A PEACEFUL WORLD IN WHICH HUMAN DIGNITY AND UNDERSTANDING WILL TRIUMPH OVER THE FORCES OF DIVISION AND CONFLICT.

END TEXT.

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